AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend and replace Page 12, second paragraph as follows:

The serial words on connection 311 are then sent to fractional encoder 312. Fractional encoder 312 is optional and can be used to encode a fractional, or non-integer number of bits onto each tone of the DMT transmitter 300 in accordance with that disclosed in commonly assigned, co-pending ~~U/S.~~ U.S. Patent Application Serial No. ~~XXX~~ 09/717,436, entitled "FRACTIONAL BIT RATE ENCODING IN A DISCRETE MULTI-TONE COMMUNICATION SYSTEM," ~~(Attorney Docket No. 61607-1340)~~. Fractional encoder 312, if included, includes the logic necessary to encode fractional bits onto each of the n tones in the DMT communication scheme. The fractional encode 312 operates on groups of words to encode a fractional (*i.e.*, non-integer) number of bits on each tone. The fractional encoder 312 generates n constellations for n carrier tones simultaneously, in order to add a fraction of a bit to each carrier tone.